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### Miramar Town Center to add retail, residential and police HQ

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May 24, 2013 | By Chris Guanche, Forum Publishing Group

Some of the Miramar Town Center's missing pieces are starting to come together.

New construction ☐ is underway on several blocks at the town center site, which is being developed by Mill Creek Residential Trust in partnership with Rockefeller Group Development Corp. and Kimco Realty.

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"Things are moving quickly," said Hector Vazquez, the city's strategic development officer.

The center's master plan divides the site into six blocks, some of which have already been built. Block 1 includes City Hall, the cultural center and library. On the corner of Red and Hiatus roads, Block 4B wraps commercial, retail and residential space around a parking garage, including tenants like 24 Hour Fitness and Subway. Block 3, currently <u>under construction</u> \$\mathref{Z}\$, has spent several years as only a parking garage and bus transit hub. But it will be transformed over the next year.

"We closed on it in December of last year, and we just started going vertical on Block 3," said Alex Barroso, vice <u>president</u> ☑ of development at Mill Creek.

Construction is is underway on the north side of the garage, which will eventually become five floors of apartments and retail space. Barroso said the first apartment units in Block 3 will be completed in the first quarter of 2014. The wraparound for the south side of the garage is slated to become the new headquarters for the Miramar Police Department, which has lacked a permanent facility since 2005. That project will begin construction separately and is scheduled for completion in late 2014.

The neighboring Block 4A also is under construction and will feature retail and commercial space wrapped around a central parking garage . The initial units will be ready in the third quarter of 2014, Barroso said.

"It's going back to the notion of what the town center is and filling in the gaps that are missing," Vazquez

The fifth and sixth blocks that make up the site's northern portion will take on a different shape. The two blocks will have more of a residential appearance with multiple three-story townhouses that include two-car garages. Foundation work is expected to start within 45 days, with the first units ready by the end of 2014, Barroso said. Once these four blocks of the puzzle are finished, the remaining piece will be Block 2, which currently serves as a flat-surface parking lot. It will eventually add retail and office space with a central parking garage, but Vazquez said it isn't part of the current construction work.

"We'll continue to put that out to market," he said.

With the exception of Block 2, which Mill Creek isn't developing, Barroso said construction would be complete by the end of 2015.

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